

## From the Commander

*By Pete Krawitz*



Did you know that our building is approaching it's 68th birthday? Did you also know that the last time we pulled a construction permit for our building was 1986? Why is this important? Well,

we know that the building likely needs significant repairs in the near future. Tackling those repairs may be a lot more complicated and costly than many of us realize.

We've been lucky to have our handy quartermaster, Harold Rodenberger, at the helm for so many years, however, some of the inevitable facility issues we will need to address in the future will likely be even beyond his capabilities to solve. So many Seattle building codes and regulations have been introduced and changed since we last pulled permits in 1986. For example, if we do any work in the building that would require a permit, it would likely cause an expensive cascading effect that would force us to bring other aspects of the building up to code. We would soon learn that the expertise and time required to fully understand these implications was well beyond all of our capabilities.

In order to better arm our post with the knowledge to make informed decisions now and even 10 years from now,

we recruited the assistance of a local design-build team: Schacht Aslani Architects and Heartland Construction. The House committee and the leadership team reviewed a proposal, which was subsequently introduced to the members and approved in August.

I believe this will be one of the most important investments that the post has made in many years. The results of this work will provide all of us with critical information that we will be able to use for many years and will hopefully help ensure the long term survival of our post in Ballard.

So now what? Over the next few months, representatives from the architect and contractors will be crawling through our building to determine the current state of our facility, researching how new zoning and permitting impacts us, and conducting interviews with a variety of members of the post to better understand how we currently use the space. By early next year, we should have the results of this work and a series of recommendations from these experts.

At this stage, we've had an initial kick-off meeting with the contractors and will soon be developing the final schedule of interviews and surveys. We will be providing regular updates to the post members via the monthly business meeting and the newsletter.

**COMMANDER, cont. pg. 3**

### Inside this issue:

Quartermaster's Update	<b>2</b>
Building Update	<b>3</b>
Auxiliary Column	<b>3</b>
Fundraiser Recap	<b>4</b>
Cavin and Rose Make Impact	<b>5</b>
National Convention	<b>6</b>
New Member Spotlight	<b>7</b>
Event Calendar	<b>8</b>



The **Ballard Eagleson Patriot** is published by the newsletter editor for Post 3063, Seattle, WA. This official newsletter is an authorized publication for members of Post 3063. Editorial content is edited, prepared, and provided by the newsletter editor. Its contents are not necessarily the official views of, or endorsed by, the VFW.

This newsletter is published quarterly and submissions must be received by the editor five days before the last day of a quarter for inclusion in the next quarter's issue. We reserve the right to edit submitted articles for timeliness, clarity, and syntax. Be aware that newsletter images and/or text appearing on the website may be shared by readers.

Commander: Pete Krawitz  
Sr Vice Commander: Joe Tiffany  
Jr Vice Commander: Joe Fitzgerald  
Quartermaster: Harold Rodenberger  
Adjutant: Alyson Teeter  
Judge Advocate: Dan Stokke  
Chaplain: Bill Griffith  
Surgeon: Tiffany Cavin  
Officer of the Day: Anthony Rose  
3-Year Trustee: Jon Guncay  
2-Year Trustee: Russ Seelig  
1-Year Trustee: Aaron Stoltz  
Service Officer: Gail Engler  
Guard: Anthony Rose  
Newsletter Editor: Alyson Teeter

**Contact Us:**

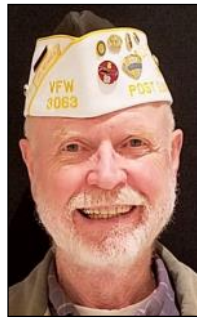
Ballard Eagleson VFW Post 3063  
2812 NW Market St.  
Seattle, WA 98107  
206-782-8618  
[editor@vfwseattle.org](mailto:editor@vfwseattle.org)

**We're on the web and Facebook!**

<http://www.vfwseattle.org>  
<https://www.facebook.com/vfwpost3063>

## Quartermaster's Update

By Harold Rodenberger



Here in the Pacific Northwest, the annual migration of the sun is more noticeable than in other places farther south.

The autumnal equinox (September 23rd this year), when our south-bound sun crosses the equator each year, reminds the natural kingdoms to prepare in earnest for the winter. It reminds me that kids are back in school, the weather is turning colder and it's time to air out the woolens. Well, maybe people don't do that last so much anymore, but you get my drift, winter's coming.

For VFW members, it's time to get back to attending meetings and socials. Chef Kay has been putting on gourmet dinners for our social

nights and Commander Pete's new meeting format has drawn more attendees and participation. Remember, you can tune in our meetings no matter where you are by hooking up to our Zoom Remote broadcast. Connection info will be sent to your email address of record earlier on the day of the meeting. Warm up that laptop or smartphone and join us.

Why not make a note to save the first Thursday each month for our business meeting and the third Thursday for the social?

It's also the time to check around our neighborhoods for potential members. New members usually don't join our post if they aren't asked. Even if your neighbor isn't qualified, she may know someone nearby who is. The only way to find out is to ask.

Autumn is a good time of year to distribute

Buddy Poppies. Our Buddy Poppy chair is Comrade Tiffany Cavin. She has a supply of special 9/11 commemorative poppies. Please contact her at 253-327-8906 or [tiffanycavin@gmail.com](mailto:tiffanycavin@gmail.com) if you are interested in helping with this project.

November brings Veterans Day, another day to help our poppy-making veterans. Our Ballard teams will be distributing Buddy Poppies that weekend. Again, if you are interested in helping this vital effort, please contact Comrade Tiffany.

Finally, as the sun moves farther south, remember to be safe out there. Street crosswalks, sidewalks and even the steps to your back porch can be dangerous as daylight ends earlier. Keep an eye out for hazards and especially watch out for children.



## Auxiliary Corner: What's Membership?

By Donna Limric

The auxiliary supports the veterans and our communities so that they may be well. Most civic organizations have an auxiliary of some kind and the VFW is no exception. We raise funds, volunteer our time, and collect goods for organizations that serve our vets, military families and our community at large. For example, we raise money for National Home which is an organization that provides temporary housing for families and children in need. In addition, we volunteer at the VA hospital and send care packages to military posts.

The auxiliary promotes and celebrates patriotism through the proper care and retirement of American flags. On Flag Day and Veterans Day we post flags at grave sites of the heroes who have passed on. We offer scholarships to our youth for art, writing and community service that demonstrates what patriotism means. When our membership grows we can do so much more, and more is needed.

The VFW Ballard Auxiliary needs members. If you have a spouse, late spouse, sibling, parent, grandparent, or child who fought in a battle in a foreign war in the American Armed Forces, you qualify to join the VFW Auxiliary. It costs \$50.00 to join but our auxiliary can sponsor you if you are unable to pay the dues. The Auxiliary provides advocacy to our lawmakers on behalf of our veterans and our armed forces to protect and improve benefits for our veterans, armed forces and their families. Members in our ranks means more people who have an interest in veterans and military issues. Finally, more members in our auxiliary means that we have more people to provide all the services our community and veterans need.

So, what's in it for you? Being in the auxiliary is fun. You get to meet wonderful people who are dedicated to various projects. It is social. Last May I was

involved in a group that hosted bingo for VA Hospital patients. We brought sandwiches, snacks, cake and ice cream. The patients got the chance to win vouchers for the hospital canteen. We had a blast! Last Memorial Day the post and auxiliary participated in a poppy drive in front of the QFC. People coming out of the store shared their stories of being a vet, or of the vets in their family. One lady from Britain shared her memories of doing poppy drives with her parents since she was a little girl. The auxiliary also has a scholarship program for members who face cancer that pays for treatment expenses. Your participation in the auxiliary would look great on a resume!

So, if you want to belong to a fun group of people who are dedicated to making a difference please consider joining the VFW Auxiliary. We would love to have you.

### Commander cont. from page 1

If you have any questions in the meantime, please reach out to [quartermaster@vfwseattle.org](mailto:quartermaster@vfwseattle.org) or stop by before the next business meeting on Thursday, Oct. 4 at 6:30 p.m. (the meeting starts at 7 p.m.).

Finally, it's worth noting that the work described above is going to be the primary focus of the leadership team and house committee between now and the end of the year. This doesn't mean I want to put all other aspects of our work and mission on hold, we just need more volunteers to assist in coordinating post events and activities now more than ever (socials, VA hospital visits, etc.). If you are interested in assisting and/or leading any of those types of events or activities, please bring it up at the next business meeting (remember, you can submit the agenda items online by visiting [www.vfwseattle.org](http://www.vfwseattle.org)) or send me an e-mail at [commander@vfwseattle.org](mailto:commander@vfwseattle.org).





## Annual Spaghetti Fundraiser Volunteers' Hard Work Pays Off

By Alyson M. Teeter

Many hours of work paid off for VFW Post 3063 volunteers during the VFW Post 3063 Annual Spaghetti Fundraiser and Raffle Sept. 8, 2018. The annual spaghetti fundraiser, which has been held at the post hall for a number of years, brought in \$5797.77. The net proceeds will be deposited in the Post Relief Fund, which benefits a variety of causes, from local veterans in need -- including those at the Seattle VA hospital -- to the VFW's National Home for Children.

The hall was jam packed with comrades, family members, and friends due in part to the Seelig family. Two-year Trustee Russ Seelig and his family performed a bulk of the work, from collecting raffle items to cooking the food. Their dedication to executing a phenomenal event was evident in the amount and quality of raffle items, the large turnout, and the taste of the food.

Many other members helped behind the scenes by collecting or donating raffle items and selling tickets. Robert Kettle narrated and kept the event running smoothly. The Post 3063 Color Guard performed a flawless posting of the colors. Jan Bryson provided front office support before, during, and after the event.

Thank you to all who attended and come again next year!



A sampling of the raffle prizes included art, dinner gift certificates, and vacation houses. There was something for everyone as there were more than 60 raffle prizes.

The post hall was full of members, family, and friends enjoying each other's company while waiting for dinner to be served. Children were welcome at the event and entertained by the post's toy collection.



### What Are You Doing For Your Community?

Our post maintains a tax-exempt status by reporting monthly community service data about our members. To ensure report accuracy, we ask that each member forward qualifying actions every month. Please go to the report submission [form](#) at [vfwseattle.org](http://vfwseattle.org) to report your service. More details about qualifying service is available at [https://drive.google.com/file/d/1\\_lfbGIVAiA1XV-Ilz-E5fLSgnyXrANUA/view](https://drive.google.com/file/d/1_lfbGIVAiA1XV-Ilz-E5fLSgnyXrANUA/view).



## Comrades Cavin and Rose Fight Food Insecurity, Teach BLS

By Christopher Dresnek

Post 3063 is lucky enough to have a Victory Garden this year thanks to the hard work of Comrades Tiffany Cavin and Anthony Rose.

A Victory Garden is meant to enhance national food production during war, and their war is on food insecurity. The state of being without reliable access to a sufficient quantity of affordable, nutritious food is what defines food insecurity, and as Comrade Anthony mentioned, it is something his friends and family have dealt with for a long time.

In addition to learning about Victory Gardens and food insecurity, Anthony also learned how to finally grow something besides tomatoes.

Comrade Tiffany will harvest vegetables before meetings and have them available for pick up. She has tomatoes, corn, various squash, greens and many other tasty veggies to try.

Feel free to talk with her about her passion project, it has been a labor of love and one with which she hopes to spread the message about food insecurity.

### Basic Life Saver Course

When Comrade Rose was in the military he was one of his brigade's BLS (Basic Life Saver) instructors and went on to the same role at Madigan Army Hospital. After he got out of the service it seemed a natural fit to be able to continue using those skills.

He came up with the idea of teaching BLS and making it a fund raiser as a way of giving back to the school who welcomed him so warmly upon his discharge, Seattle Central. The scholarship is named for Anthony Diaz, the school's Veteran Certification Official, and has raised more than \$2,000 so far.

Please contact comrade Comrade Rose to donate to the scholarship or take a future BLS course.



America is at war. Ballard Eagleson VFW Post 3063 therefore is creating its own Victory Garden behind its post location! Thanks to Comrade Tiffany Cavin for such great initiative and to all those who helped to get this garden going.



## Recap: VFW National Convention 2018

By Nestor Tamayao

The 119th National Convention Veterans of Foreign Wars convened July 21 – 25 at the Kansas City, Mo. Convention Center. The attending post delegates to the convention were Quartermaster Harold Rodenberger, Junior Vice-Commander Joe Fitzgerald, Trustee Aaron Stoltz, Junior Past-Commander Nestor Tamayao, and Comrade James Williams.

On Saturday and Sunday, the exhibition hall had many vendors and sponsors' exhibits, a health fair, an auction, "Buddy" Poppy Contest featuring entries constructed of poppies, a veterans walk-in claims clinic, Southern, Big Ten, Eastern and Western Conference Caucuses as well as various committee meetings. On Sunday, in addition to various workshops and National-level meetings, there was a Joint Memorial Service and a Welcome Concert featuring Trace Adkins.

At the Joint Opening Session on Monday, July 23, VFW and Auxiliary members attended the formal opening of the 119th National Convention by VFW Commander-in Chief Keith E. Harman. A video recapped the many successes of the VFW in 2017-2018. Many VFW awards were given to individuals and organizations.

After the lunch break, the VFW and Auxiliary went into their respective business sessions. The VFW business session usual room seating configuration was grouped by state departments. Each department's commander placed a placard bearing his or her state on a pedestal. Department, District and Post officers and delegates were all seated within their particular state's area. Proposed by-law, manual of procedure, ritual amendments, finance and internal organization, general resolutions, national security and foreign affairs, veterans' service resolutions, and conven-

tion rules were introduced by respective committees and approved or disapproved by the membership.

Tuesday's highlight was the appearance of the President of the United States, Donald Trump. Among other subjects, he spoke on issues with favorable direct bearing for the military, veterans, military personnel and their families. The president acknowledged the importance and need for the Veterans of Foreign Wars as a congressionally-chartered veterans organization. Prior to the president's appearance, Marine Lt. Col. (ret.) Oliver North was introduced and given the VFW Distinguished Service Award. Also on Tuesday afternoon was a patriotic celebration for all delegates attending the convention.



VFW Village in Exhibition Hall.

The final day of the convention culminated in the election and installation of the national officers for the ensuing VFW year 2018 – 2019 complete with the usual pomp and circumstance. It's quite the scene observing many delegates parading throughout the hall to celebrate each national officer's election.

The old adage of "All work and no play..." did not apply at this convention as delegates were afforded many opportunities to eat, drink and be entertained. Kansas City, Mo. is noted for its great cuisine, local breweries and distilleries. Barbeque is one of the "food groups" of this city!

Yearly, thousands of VFW and Auxiliary delegates gather to represent the organization's total membership of nearly 1.6 million at the National Convention. The convention gives the organization's membership the opportunity approve national priorities, elect new leadership, recognize prominent individuals and organizations and work on issues important to veterans, service personnel and their families. The 120th convention will be in Orlando, Fla. July 20 – 24, 2019.



## Take Action: Blue Water Navy Bill Stalled in Senate

Courtesy of VFW.org

**Background:** During the Vietnam War, veterans who served in the offshore waters of Vietnam drank, bathed in, and cooked with water contaminated by Agent Orange. They are now arbitrarily and unjustly denied benefits for illnesses associated with Agent Orange exposure. On July 25, 2018, the House of Representatives unanimously passed H.R. 299, the Blue Water Navy Vietnam Veterans Act of 2018. This bipartisan legislation would end the injustice of denying care and benefits to veterans who suffer from life-threatening health conditions.

H.R. 299 is now stalled in the Senate. The VFW needs your help to make sure this bill is passed before the end of the year. If the Senate fails to do so, the bill will die and may never be considered again.

**Take Action:** Contact your Senators to demand that the Senate swiftly pass H.R. 299. The Senate must not delay passage of this important bill while Blue Water Navy veterans sicken and die from diseases related to exposure to Agent Orange.

Go to <http://capwiz.com/vfw/issues/alert/?alertid=80552661> for information on how to contact your U.S. Senators.

### New Member Spotlight: Comrade Leo Potts

*This is a recurring column that highlights new VFW Post 3063 members. Comrade Leo Potts joined the post in April 2018.*

**What motivated you to join the VFW?** I enjoy the camaraderie with other soldiers.

**What is your military background?** Originally enlisted as E-1 and was an infantry soldier, Was talked into joining ROTC and became an officer in 1987. Combat Engineer, got out in 1991, got back in 2000. Deployed to Iraq & Afghanistan, retired in 2015 as a major. There's more but I don't want to bore you.

**Civilian job, education, family, hobbies, or anything else you'd like to tell us about yourself?** I'm fully retired and what I do for fun is travel, vacation, help other soldiers get their benefits, and help other people travel and vacation more.

**What do you hope to achieve being a member of the VFW?** I want to be part of a family, military family, and whatever I can do to help the unit I plan on doing that.



# Upcoming Events

**October 4, 2018, 6 p.m.** - VFW Post 3063 Auxiliary Business Meeting.

**October 4, 2018, 7 p.m.** - VFW Post 3063 Business Meeting. Food is served at 6 p.m. If you plan to attend and have new business to discuss, please submit your agenda item at <https://goo.gl/ww8kk4>.

**October 18, 2018, 6:30 p.m.** - VFW Post 3063 Social Dinner.

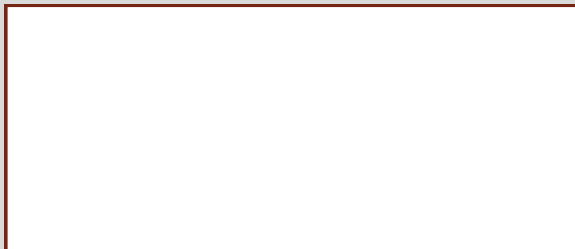
**Wednesdays, 7 p.m.** - Yoga for Everybody. See the [post calendar](#) for specific dates. Register [here](#). (Free for post members.)

*Doors open at 5:30 p.m. for business meetings and social dinners. Social dinners are free for members who have birthdays in the same month. Additional events are listed at <http://vfwseattle.org/index.php/resources/event-calendar/>.*



*Ballard Eagleson VFW Post 3063 is located in the Ballard neighborhood of Seattle at 2812 NW Market St. The office is open Thursdays and Saturdays 1-5 p.m.*

*We're on the web and Facebook! <http://www.vfwseattle.org> | <https://www.facebook.com/vfwpost3063>*



**Ballard Eagleson Patriot**

VFW Post 3063

2812 NW Market St.

Seattle, WA 98107

206-782-8618

[editor@vfwseattle.org](mailto:editor@vfwseattle.org)